## 4. Note on *Cypræa decipiens*. By Edgar A. Smith.

[Received March 23, 1881.]

My description of *Cypræa decipiens* appeared in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1880, p. 482. At that time only a single specimen was known, and that, unfortunately, in a worn and somewhat bleached state. The British Museum has lately purchased two other examples in most brilliant condition, brought home by the master of a trading vessel from Port Walcot, North-west Australia.

At the time of describing this species I pointed out several distinctions between it and the South-Australian *C. thersites*, which differences are maintained in the two fine shells before me. These are similar in size to the type figured (P. Z. S. 1880, pl. xlviii. figs. 8, 8*a*), and present the same excessive dorsal humpiness; but their base is scarcely so flattened, the outer lip especially being decidedly rounded. The colour, too, appears to be variable. One specimen has the base perfectly black; and this colour extends up the sides almost halfway to the vertex; and the spotting on the back is much darker than originally described. The second example is greyish brown or mouse-colour at the base, becoming rather darker towards the teeth. The former tint extends only a little way up the sides, and is varied with a few remote irregularly placed roundish dark spots. The upper or dorsal region, however, is like that of its fellow example. The teeth were stated to be about twenty in number; but in these two shells there are two more. The colour of the aperture far within is lilac; and the body-whorl within, beyond the teeth, is brownish white.

It is most satisfactory to obtain two further specimens of a species which, at first sight, so much resembles a dwarfed *C. thersites*; for they not only prove the stability of the species, but at the same time confirm the judgment originally expressed as to its specific distinctness.

## 5. Descriptions of two new Species of Shells from Lake Tanganyika. By Edgar A. Smith.

[Received April 16, 1881.]

Mr. Damon, of Weymouth, knowing the interest I have taken in the shells of this lake, has kindly submitted to me for examination a small collection which he recently obtained from this locality. The two species about to be described are the only novelties. These, however, possess much interest because of their relationship to the genus *Tiphobia*. The opercula of the two forms are identical; but the character of the shells is so different that I am inclined to propose a new section, or subgenus, for the reception of the two new ones. These in texture are solid, longitudinally costate and trans-

versely lirate, the points of intersection of the liræ and costæ being more or less granular. The aperture is ovate, and not produced into a canal at the base as in *Tiphobia*; and the columella and upper extremity of the outer lip are connected by a thickish callosity. This division (*Paramelania*) will also include the *Melania nassa* of Woodward, so remarkable for its great variability.

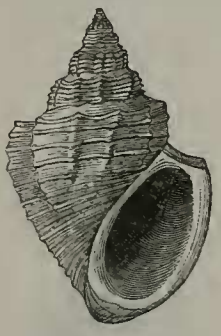
PARAMELANIA, subgen. nov.

Shell solid, ovate-conical, imperforate, longitudinally ribbed and transversely lirate, covered with a thin epidermis. Aperture ovate, entire, indistinctly effuse at the base. Last whorl sometimes slightly prolonged inferiorly. Peristome thick, margins joined by a callosity. Operculum like that of *Tiphobia*.

PARAMELANIA DAMONI.

Shell solid, imperforate, ovate turreted, white, covered with an olive-brown epidermis, prettily sculptured with fine yet distinct wavy lines of increment, and more or less distinct transverse impressed striæ. Whorls 10, very concave at the upper part, the concavity

Fig. 1.



*Paramelania damoni.*

occupying about one third of the whorl; concavity smooth, merely exhibiting the epidermal sculpture; rest of the whorls coarsely plicated and spirally ridged. Plicæ rather acute, about 12 in number on the penultimate whorl, a little oblique on the last, and becoming obsolete about the middle. Spiral liræ rather slender, equal, continuous on and between the plicæ; 4 upon the upper volutions, and about 14 on the last. The uppermost, which defines the upper end of the costæ, is produced into very short hollow scales or spines upon the ribs; and the second and sometimes the third have the same character in a less marked degree. Aperture obliquely ovate, occupying about half the length of the shell, covered with a slight callous deposit far within, not quite obscuring the external

coloration. Outer lip somewhat expanded, much thickened within, white, concave above, arcuate at the side. Base also thickened and, together with the lower extremity of the whorl, forming a broad, retroverted, and very short cauda. Upper end of labrum joined to the base by a rather thick defined callosity, which spreads over the body-whorl within the mouth.

Length 35 millim., diam. above the aperture 16; aperture 15 long, 9 broad.

Operculum black, closing the aperture, but at some distance from the peristome.

PARAMELANIA CRASSIGRANULATA.

Shell solid (? fossil), imperforate, ovate turreted, dirty whitish (? bleached). Whorls probably about 8; four remaining narrowly excavated at the upper part, convexish at the sides, strongly plicate and spirally sulcated and ridged. Plicæ arcuate, oblique, 12 to 15 on the penultimate whorl, 15 to 17 on the last, becoming more or less obsolete towards the base. Sulci deep, cutting the plicæ into nodules, which number 5 or 6 upon the upper whorls. Transverse ridges on the last further apart below than above the middle, with the exception of 3 or 4 at the extreme base; these are finer, closer together, and hardly if at all granulous. Aperture, peristome, and basal prolongation very similar to those of the preceding species.

Length 28 millim., diam. 13; aperture 13 long, 7 wide.

Fig. 2.

*Paramelania crassigranulata.*

This species, of which we know but two specimens in worn and semifossil condition, is distinguished from the preceding by the narrower excavation or tabulation at the upper part of the volutions, and the more rounded and more coarsely granulated ribs and spiral liræ. The general form and the relative proportion of the spire to the length of the last whorl are so much alike in the two forms, that I feel a little hesitation in specifically separating them, bearing in mind the excessive variability of *P. nassa*.

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